

# FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN

## BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM.

In some parts of the Tyrol a beautiful though curious custom prevails. When a girl is going to be married, and just before she leaves for the church, her mother gives her a handkerchief, which is called a *tearkerchief*. It is made of newly spun and unused linen, and with it the girl dries the natural tears she sheds on leaving home. The tearkerchief is never used after the marriage day, but is folded up and placed in the linen closet, where it remains till its owner's death, when it is taken from its place and spread over her face.—*TR-Bits*.

## DO YOU KNOW HOW TO DUST?

The feather duster is doomed. The recruits in the warfare against consumption have taken up arms against it, and, like the old oaken bucket so dear to our childhood, it is to be known to the next generation only in song and story. A representative of a committee of physicians and others who are fighting against tuberculosis in this State recently said:

"We hear a good deal nowadays about street dust and soft coal as nuisances and as dangerous to the public health, but we are apt to forget that right in our own homes we often have a danger just as great. Methods of cleaning are still in vogue that have come down to us from the days when the wrath of God was held responsible for a disease that, by the ignorance of man, was fostered behind closed windows and spread with housewifely industry by the feather duster. These old-fashioned ways are a menace to health, and so those

earth and air and April rain and sunshine and all the vast chemistry of nature are used to give you finally your serviceable vegetable pot?"

"What becomes of our ideals? Our ideals are the food that makes us what we are, that is transmuted into the very fabric of our being. To the making of an ordinarily decent man or woman—just an ordinarily, honest, kind, unselfish human being—so many glorious aspirations, golden dreams, noble intentions, must go, as to the making of an ordinarily healthy person so many protoids, so much albumen—so much beef and egg and butter, in short—must go. After a certain age a conspicuously idealistic attitude on the part of the average human being merely denotes maldigestion, malnutrition. And, on the other hand, after a certain age to be hard, insincere, vehemently self-seeking, means that youth was nourished upon no proper diet of ideals, was starved of what is the chief ingredient of mature character. That is what our ideals are—the spiritual food of our youth, and what has become of them is witnessed by the fibre of our elder natures."

## CHANCE FOR MATRIMONY.

Women, if you are not married, do you know what your chances for matrimony are in New York City? It is not to be expected that any law can be held down for individual cases, but there is an average established, by carefully kept records, regardless of the exceptional cases, that has varied little in years, and shows what the chances are during the different ages from fifteen to fifty-six.

## Our Cut-out Recipe.

Put in Your Scrap-Book.

"Divinity." Substitute For Fudge.—Girls, have you tried making "divinity"? It is the very latest in the sweet-tooth business. If you want to be up to the minute with the latest confection, you had better try this formula in your chafing dish: Pour three cups of sugar into a saucepan. Add two-thirds of a cup of water and a cup of thick table syrup. In another pan mix a cup of sugar and one-half cup of water. While the contents of both pans are coming to a soft boil, beat the whites of three eggs in a large bowl, and when stiff pour in the contents of the second pan and beat. Then add the contents of the first pan. Mix and add shelled nuts. Then beat the whole concoction till stiff. Pour into a greased pan to cool. Cut into dainty slices.

men who have organized the anti-tuberculosis movement have come out with the following public announcement about sweeping and dusting:

"When you sweep a room, raise as little dust as possible, because this dust, when breathed, irritates the nose and throat and may set up catarrh. Some of the dust breathed in dusty air reaches the lungs, making parts of them black and hard and useless.

"If the dust in the air you breathe contains the germs of consumption—tubercle bacilli—which have come from consumptives spitting on the floors, you run the risk of getting consumption yourself.

"To prevent making a great dust in sweeping, use moist sawdust on bare floors. When the room is carpeted, moisten a newspaper and tear it into small scraps and scatter upon the carpet when you begin sweeping. As you sweep, brush the papers along by the broom, and they will catch most of the dust and hold it fast, just as the sawdust does on bare floors. Do not have either the paper or the sawdust dripping wet—only moist.

"In dusting a room do not use a feather duster, because this does not remove the dust from the room, but only breaks it into the air so that you breathe it in, or it settles down, and then you have to do the work over again.

"Use soft, dry cloths to dust with and shake them frequently out of the window, or use slightly moistened cloths and place them out in water when you have finished. In this way you get the dust out of the room."

—*The House Beautiful*.

## WHAT BECOMES OF NEW IDEALS.

Anne O'Hagan in writing a series of papers in *Harper's Bazar* which deserves the thoughtful attention of every intelligent woman. This month Miss O'Hagan discusses feminine ideals, concerning which she is quite optimistic, as the following extract shows:

"Even I, even you—are not our ideal compounded with us at least. Do we not hear the riot of the children more loudly, more tenderly, because we, too, were once adventurous? Are we not a little kinder to the nervous, nervous young because we, too, were nervous and afraid once? Can we not discern noble, shy purposes in what looks to uninitiated eyes like mere pomposity? Is not the workable, every-day honesty, which is all that we can claim now, the remnant of that old dream of ours—that dream of other truth in words and thoughts and deeds? Was not that vast, impossible ideal necessary to give us just this little bit of ordinary, companionable decency—as

If you are between twenty and twenty-five years old your chances are the best possible, for more than one-half of the women who marry in New York City do so between these years, or, to be more exact, fifty-one and two-tenths out of every hundred.

The next most favorable matrimonial period covers the following five years from twenty-five to thirty, when there takes place the weddings of sixteen women out of every hundred who marry, or sixteen per cent. Then comes the five years above, from thirty to thirty-five, when the figures drop two, or fourteen out of one hundred.

Then to get the next highest figures one must go back to the earliest years of the records, which show that out of every hundred women married thirteen are between fifteen and twenty years old. But the most sudden decline of all is found upward from thirty-five to forty, for in those years only three out of each hundred women who marry are four, or eleven per cent, less than during the five years under thirty-five.

From forty the percentage falls off gradually there being two women married out of each hundred between their fortieth and forty-fifth years; then in the next five years, up to fifty, the records show that only one woman out of two hundred marry, or one-half of one per cent.

From the ages of fifty to fifty-six there is a falling off to one-fifth of one per cent, or one married woman out of each five hundred married. There are few brides after the fifty-sixth year, only one out of each one thousand women marrying, or one-tenth of one per cent.—*New York Herald*.

## GODS AND WOMEN.

The gods, deeming themselves quite shrewd and clever, no doubt, bestowed on woman lips with which, by keeping them shut, she might make her mouth like a rosebud. But what happens? The trap proves ineffectual and woman proceeds to enhance her charm, while at the same time having her own way about it, by using these very lips to say "no" with when she means "yes."

By, too, her nose. The gods intended this to add character to her face, but she never rested until she had learned to blow smoke through it.

Everybody knows how it is with the eyes given to her to see, and the ears given her to hear. She wears stylish glasses on the one and hangs the chain back over the other. All of which must make the gods suspect that they're not so much in the creative way, after all.—*Ramsey Dodson, in Fisk*.

## Farm Topics.

### SONG FOR THE FARMER.

The cackle of the hen should be the sweetest song that greets the ear of the farmer.

### THE HORSE'S FOOT.

Inspect the feet of the horse quite often. You know the old saying of "No foot, no horse," and every word of it is so.

### CLEAN NESTS.

Change the straw in the nests as often as it is required. The hens will appreciate it and it will induce them to lay more eggs.

### DARK STALLS.

While dark stalls may keep the flies away, they are injurious in other ways. Stock of all kinds need the sunshine worse than man, and will suffer worse from the lack of it.

### FLOW POINTS.

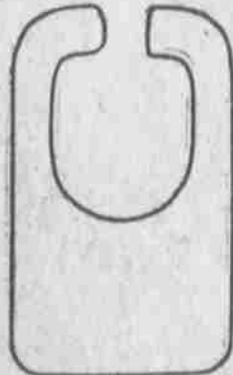
Asparagus demands a rich, deep, well-drained soil. It is a gross feeder, and will take almost any amount of fertilizer.

Salt is often used on asparagus beds, and is sometimes an indirect fertilizer, acting upon fertility already in the soil, and having a distinct tendency to attract and hold moisture, but it has no direct fertilizing influence. However, it has a beneficial effect in helping to check the growth of weeds.

Kalnit is an excellent thing for asparagus beds, as it contains a considerable percentage of sulphate of potash, which is a direct fertilizer; it also contains a fourth of its bulk of salt.—*Home and Farm*.

### SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE WEANER.

This can be made of wood. Take a piece of board (one-fourth inch thick is about right) and carve it out exactly as shown in the illustration. Pattern should be about five inches long for cow, somewhat smaller for



calves. Now by adjusting this simple piece of board into the cow or calf's nose you have a perfect weaner. It does not interfere with animals' eating or drinking. Have tried this and found it a success, a perfect weaner.—*C. F. Freshkom, in The Epitomist*.

### FARM CLEANINGS.

Dairymen prefer to milk before they clean the cow and horse stables. In this way they miss the dust and odors which arise when cleaning and feeding is done.

There is no standard for judging the guinea fowl. They should, however, be of uniform shape, great activity and reasonably good producers of eggs. Their entire egg crop is produced in summer.

Bitter cream comes from keeping cream too long from cows that have been milked since early last spring. It is best to churn every few days, even though there is only a small churning on hand.

In setting out the new fruit trees be sure and leave plenty of space between them. You must make allowance for the growth of the years. Crowded trees interfere with one another and have their fruit bearing possibilities checked.

The potato storeroom must be dark, cool, well ventilated and dry. There should be a double floor beneath where large quantities are piled together. There should also be opportunities for ventilation at the walls, and at intervals through the pile.

Alfalfa in the orchard should have every show possible. Allow the fall growth to lie on the ground, and then after the ground dries up in the spring, the coat of dead vines should be burned. There is no better money maker on the farm than alfalfa.

The most money is made out of horses that are well bred and free from blemishes. Why raise any other kind? As has been repeatedly said it takes just as much time and trouble and feed to raise a poor horse as a good one, and see the difference in the prices for which they are sold.

A good condition powder, to be fed in limited quantities to the brood sow, is composed of a teaspoonful each of copperas, sulphur and half a cupful of oil meal. Give once a day for each sow weighing 250 pounds. It is needless to say that all tonics should be given only when the animal is out of condition.

## The Miracle of Self-Confidence.

By ORISON SWETT MARDEN.

It was said that Napoleon's presence in a battle doubled the strength of his forces. Half the effectiveness of an army resides in the soldiers' faith in their leader. When the leader doubts, hesitates, wavers the whole army is thrown into confusion; but his confidence doubles the assurance of every man under him.

The mental faculties, like soldiers, must believe in their leader—the unconquerable will. The mind of the doubter, the hesitator, the waverer, the man who is not sure of himself, who thinks he is not equal to what he has undertaken, is set toward failure, and everything works against him. There is a weakening all along the line.

In an emergency, as in danger, a man can often perform feats of great strength which he could not even approximate in cold blood. Arousing a man multiplies his power tremendously. Think of what delicate men and women, even invalids, have accomplished when dominated by some supreme occasion or a mighty passion. The imperious "must" gives added strength and unusual power to all the faculties. So a great self-faith, an unwavering self-confidence, braces up the entire man, physically, mentally, morally. It raises him to his highest power, and makes him do with ease what would be impossible without this wonderful stimulus.

An overmastering faith in oneself often enables comparatively ignorant men and women to do marvelous things—feats which sensitive, timid, doubting people, of far greater ability and much finer texture and nobler qualities shrink from attempting.

I know people who have been hunting for months for a situation; but they go into an office with a confession of weakness in their very manner; they show their lack of self-confidence. Their prophecy of failure is in their faces, in their manner. They surrender before the battle begins. They are living witnesses against themselves.

When you ask a man to give you a position, and he reads this language in your face and manner, "Please give me a position; do not kick me out; fate is against me; I am an unlucky dog; I am disheartened; I have lost confidence in myself," he will only have contempt for you; he will try to himself you are not a man, to start with, and he will get rid of you as soon as he can.

If you expect to get a position, you must go into an office with the air of a conqueror; you must fling out confidence from yourself before you can convince an employer that you are the man he is looking for. You must show by your very presence that you are a man of force, a man who can do things; with vigor, cheerfulness, and enthusiasm.

If you carry with you evidence of your power, the badge of superiority, then you will not wander the streets looking for a situation very long. Everywhere employer are looking for men who can do things, who can conquer by inherent force and energy.—*From Success*.

### If You Want to Be Loved.

Don't contradict people, even if you're sure you are right.

Don't be inquisitive about the affairs of even your most intimate friend.

Don't underrate anything because you don't possess it.

Don't believe that everybody else in the world is happier than you.

Don't conclude that you have never had any opportunities in life.

Don't believe all the evils you hear.

Don't be rude to your inferiors in social position.

Don't repeat gossip, even if it does interest a crowd.

Don't jeer at anybody's religious belief.

Learn to hide your aches and pains under a pleasant smile. Few care whether you have the earache, headache or rheumatism.

Learn to attend to your own business—a very important point.

Do not try to be anything else but a gentleman or a gentlewoman, and that means one who has consideration for the whole world and whose life is governed by the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would be done by."—*Christian World*.

### Eyes and Seeing.

Prof. W. D. Scott sounds a note of warning about the increasing use of the eyes for reading and the inspection of small near-by objects. This especially affects school children. Professor Scott says that the human eye was evolved for distant vision, and in its structure is relatively poorly suited for near-by vision. The increase of all sorts of printing augments the trouble every day, and "all things seem to be conspiring to make us use our eyes more and more for the very thing for which they are the most poorly adapted." There is, no doubt, much reason in this, but could the world banish its printing press and retarda its civilization?

Smoking tobacco is now dispensed from pump-in-the-slot machines in London.

## WASPS—THE ORIGINAL PAPER-MAKERS.

Of course, the writer knew that wasps are the original paper-makers, and long since pointed the way to the use of wood-pulp for that paper-making which has so immensely increased in later years and is threatening much of the literature of this era with early extinction. But from what particular objects was the pulp gathered?

Now came a rare surprise. A few feet beyond the old tree stood a chestnut telephone pole. While passing it one day a hornet was seen to alight upon it. Eureka!—the mystery was solved. For straightway the insect began scraping off the surface with its jaws. Settling well upon the post, it fastened its open mandibles into it, drew them together, thus removing a particle of fibre, and backed down a little way. This act was repeated until it had covered a space about three-fourths of an inch long, and one-sixteenth wide, just the stretch of the hornet's jaws. Meanwhile a tiny pellet of wood-dust had been gathered and rolled and pushed beneath the mouth; whereupon Vespa flew away. In fact, her method of gathering building material was just the reverse of that used when giving it out in construction.

Now the post was carefully inspected, and it was found to be mottled on all sides and to the top, about eighteen feet, with streaks like that which the hornet had just left, the fresh marks upon the abraded wood showing distinctly against the weathered surface. The streaks were not all of equal length; for, as it afterwards appeared, the pulp-gatherers seemed somewhat fastidious in their selections, and would shift their positions several times. Sometimes, also, the scar already made would be continued by the same or another worker; and often it would be overlaid. But, as a rule, the space which measured the amount of fibre removed at one visit to the pole corresponded with the amount of pulp laid on at one time by the builders on the nest; and that in both cases was determined apparently by the carrying capacity of the jaws. The visits varied in length. Thus, of three noted, one was four minutes, with seven shifts; one, two minutes; and one, three minutes, nine seconds.

Wishing to get some idea of the number of visits made by the insect pulp-gatherers, I counted carefully the scars within several square inches of surface, and therefrom estimated the number within a square inch around the entire girth of the pole. Thence I roughly calculated that at least 40,000 visits had been made for wood-fibre. Some of these were made by yellow-jackets and brown wasps, but most of them from hornets by the study nest, as could be determined by the direction of the insect's flight. One must also consider that in many cases the scraped surface had been gone over more than once, so that the estimate is probably below rather than above that mentioned. There were several similar poles in the vicinity, all more or less thus marked, the one nearest to the above quite as freely. Even from this inadequate estimate one can see the enormous industry of our colony.—*Dr. H. C. McCook, in Harper's Magazine*.

## WISE WORDS.

An optimist is one who keeps alive the joy derived from common things.

We should not be with wicked men as their companions, but as their physicians.

Religion may become an escape from duty, rather than its inspiration and fulfillment.

The trouble with many uplifters is that they love their notions more than the people.

"It abideth alone" explains away some lives. They have never learned the law of service.

Virtue, like health, is usually unconscious of itself.

The best way to save time is to lose some of it in prayer.

It's easy making light of sorrow when it's not our own.

The church will have trouble in drawing men so long as it thinks more of drawing them than of helping them.

The saddest people are those who are trying to pump happiness out of the cisterns of amusement.

An ignorant man's practice of piety does more good than the most learned man's philosophy of religion.

He is proficient in self-denial who can silence the mean things he had thought of saying of another.

Nature provides that if we make life a dream of pleasure we shall awaken by stubbing the toe on a pain.

Some think that when they're rounded off the corners of kindness they've polished humanity into purity.

When you go out in another's wisdom dressed, be sure that truth will blow and you will stand a foot taller.—*Home Herald*.